

ARTICLE 204**INTERGOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS POLICIES****INTRODUCTION TO INTERGOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS POLICIES**

While the actions, policies, and programs of Detroit's city government are of prime importance to Detroit's residents, property owners, employers, and employees, they are often dictated or influenced by outside forces: higher levels of government and/or the economy.

These policies address Detroit's relationship to the Federal, State, Regional, and County governments and their various agencies which affect Detroit. Fiscal interrelationships between City and State are especially important. State actions concerning such diverse subjects as road-building and maintenance, crime, and social welfare affect the City. Detroit is incorporated under the Home Rule Cities Act which requires it to perform certain functions and permits it to do many more. The State limits the City's taxing and borrowing power, and requires the City to have a balanced budget each year.

FEDERAL RELATIONS POLICIES**❑ POLICY 204-1: *Unemployment***

Seek various Federal measures which would help solve Detroit's unemployment problems.

METHODS:

- Seeking the provision of public sector jobs where the private sector provides insufficient employment.
- Encouraging Federal support for a national youth corps.
- Requesting the Federal government to enact and expand special tax credits for employing and training hard-to-employ workers.
- Urging the U. S. to pursue a policy of full employment for people already in the U. S. prior to implementation of immigration policies designed solely to import low-cost workers.
- Encouraging the location of Federal, job-providing institutions in Detroit.

- Working toward a more effective and better funded Federal job-training program.
- New legislation should provide for and encourage special training for hard-core unemployed.

□ **POLICY 204-2: *Tax sources***

The original idea of Federal/State/local separation developed when Federal income taxes did not exist and most taxing power was left to State and local levels. Since the Federal income tax is the most efficient and fairest tax mechanism available, it should continue to be used to provide needed revenue to States and local areas.

METHODS :

- Attempting to illustrate to the Federal government that State and local taxing powers are not sufficient to support many basic services.
- Seeking Federal provision of countercyclical funding to aid cities with the most severe business cycles.

□ **POLICY 204-3: *Targeting Federal monies***

Some programs and monies should be targeted directly to the neediest central cities, not passed through State agencies.

METHODS:

- Working with national coalitions of central cities to obtain reasonable allocation formulas for grant programs.
- Continue supporting the right to seek funding directly from Federal agencies.

❑ **POLICY 204-4: *Flexibility for local governments***

Encourage the Federal government to allow localities maximum flexibility in the use of their share of Federal tax dollars.

METHOD:

Encouraging the Federal government not to impose reporting requirements that would go beyond the intent of Congress within particular legislative guidelines.

❑ **POLICY 204-5: *Fair share***

Analyze how Federal tariffs, income tax, and fiscal policies hurt some areas more than others. Urge greater equity. Michigan should receive its fair share, including its share of Federal contracts.

METHODS:

- Promoting policies reducing Federal defense spending, but also making sure Detroit business and industry receive their share of Federal contracts.
- Opposing Federal tax reform that would eliminate the depreciation allowances or tax credits that industries need to support their reinvestment. At the same time, insist that tax credits encouraging automation be paralleled by programs to help displaced workers.
- Supporting Federal anti-dumping and tariff provisions that are critical to the survival of Detroit and Michigan business.
- Seeking revisions of Federal and State tax laws so that enough special incentives are given for inner city business location to offset real and perceived economic advantages for location in the suburbs.
- Monitoring Federal government applications of the steel trigger price mechanism on imports to make sure formulas do not put steel coming through Great Lakes ports at a competitive disadvantage.
- Making sure Detroit receives a fair share of Corps of Engineers (COE) projects by encouraging Michigan's Congressional delegation to support Corps of Engineers projects that would aid Detroit and providing information

to Detroit Congressmen relating to potential projects the Corps might study and fund in Detroit.

❑ **POLICY 204-6: *Deregulation***

Continue to monitor Federal deregulation and proposals to change trade, transportation, and freight policies.

METHOD:

Supporting and participating in major efforts to influence Federal policy that could affect Detroit business.

❑ **POLICY 204-7: *Foreign competition***

Encourage the Federal government to keep the U. S. economically competitive with other nations but not at the expense of some segments of the U. S. population.

METHODS:

- Encouraging Federal subsidy of research and development and tax laws that favor modernization of industry.
- Pointing out to the Federal government that many displaced workers still require retraining or relocation assistance if they are to find a new place in the work force.
- Urging the Federal government to improve incentives for research and development and/or industries to collaborate in research with one another and universities.
- Urge the Federal government to improve access to foreign markets, and develop a better response to foreign government targeting practices.

❑ **POLICY 204-8: *Federal legislation and administrative rules***

Promote legislation and administrative rules which are advantageous for maintaining and expanding Detroit's economy. Conversely, work to prevent and/or modify legislation and administrative rules which have an adverse affect on Detroit's economy.

METHODS:

- Promoting Federal and State legislation to increase economic development funds for declining industrial cities.
- Monitoring the progress of new development bills through the legislative process. Working to have them target funds to cities like Detroit and, if this is not possible, working to eliminate biases against such cities. Working to make the programs more efficient in improving long-term employment and to make the conditions for expanding the funds as flexible as possible.
- Monitoring and influencing the development of guidelines by administrative agencies. Trying to make them as favorable as possible to Detroit, with the minimum acceptable position being no bias against Detroit.
- Evaluating pending industry regulation or deregulation legislation to determine the effect on Detroit's economy. Supporting bills which would improve Detroit, and working to modify and/or defeat those which would hurt it.
- Working to remove anti-Detroit bias from existing legislation and administrative rules.
- Promoting the formation of uniform national worker benefit programs in areas where Detroit and Michigan are at a disadvantage, especially Workers Compensation and Unemployment Insurance, and a National Health Insurance Plan.
- Continuing to include the members of the Detroit Economic Growth Corporation's Board of Directors and the companies and organizations they represent in the City's lobbying efforts at the Federal level.
- Continuing to work and strengthen alliances with organizations such as the National League of Cities, the Council on Urban Economic Development

(CUED), and the Great Lakes State Governors Conference at the national level, and also Southeastern Michigan Council of Governments (SEMCOG) and the Greater Detroit Chamber of Commerce at the local level.

- Monitoring proposed changes in income and other tax laws to see whether they will help or hurt Detroit.
- Continually pressing toward better distribution of Federal spending so that Michigan gets its share.

STATE OF MICHIGAN EXECUTIVE BRANCH POLICIES

❑ **POLICY 204-10: *Equitable representation***

The City of Detroit should be equitably represented on all State boards, commissions, and committees.

METHODS:

- Establishing and maintaining a comprehensive State administrative monitoring system.
- Insisting that administrative positions are filled by an adequate number of Detroit residents.
- Finding better means of keeping the City informed and/or coordinating information about pending State legislation and administrative actions. Developing a more efficient mechanism for monitoring nonpolitical pending State actions.
- Seeing that Detroit has more representatives on State boards allocating Federal pass-through money.

STATE OF MICHIGAN LEGISLATIVE BRANCH POLICIES

❑ **POLICY 204-11: *Intergovernmental relations***

Research all existing State laws that affect the City of Detroit's intergovernmental relations with the idea of formulating possible amendments in order to give Detroit more equity when compared to the rest of the State.

METHODS:

- Assigning appropriate staff to review and analyze appropriate State laws that refer to intergovernmental relationships.
- Drafting amendments to existing laws and/or new laws to improve the City of Detroit's equity with the rest of the State.
- Continuing to strive to improve Detroit's equity with the rest of the State.

❑ **POLICY 204-12: *Business attraction and retention***

Develop mechanisms at the State level that will enable Detroit and other older, fully developed cities better to retain and attract appropriate development.

METHODS:

- Supporting appropriate legislation that establishes new and more effective review mechanisms at the State and/or regional level based on the Federal Urban Impact Procedures.
- Supporting legislation that eliminates additional State assistance for projects relocating development from one jurisdiction in the State to another.
- Supporting special Federal and State legislation to meet the unique needs of Detroit and other older, fully developed cities.
- Working to broaden State services to allow funding for necessary supportive services, such as Michigan State Housing Development Authority (MSHDA) financed retailing as part of a housing project.
- Supporting the State's promotion of its assets nationally and internationally.

❑ **POLICY 204-13: *Revenue sharing formulas***

Federal, State, and County tax revenues should be better distributed to the City of Detroit and other older, fully developed cities based upon new formulas that recognize both population size and needs.

METHODS:

- Supporting appropriate legislation that mandates that the City of Detroit and other older, fully developed cities receive a fair share of County, State, and Federal funds, based upon City contribution and needs.
- Supporting necessary legislation and/or administrative rule changes mandating that when recipients include both residents and nonresidents, services and facilities shall be financed by higher levels of government, including the State.
- Supporting appropriate legislation providing compensation to local governments which provide community-based residential services for previously institutionalized persons.
- Encouraging use of State funds to facilitate access of City residents to out-State facilities and services, where necessary.
- Supporting a study in southeast Michigan, by an appropriate governmental agency, of the concept of regional tax base sharing. Identifying benefits and costs, both to existing tax base and community development.

❑ **POLICY 204-14: *Public school financing***

Establish a more equitable and stable means of financing public schools.

❑ **POLICY 204-15: *Crime victims***

Support State legislation expanding reimbursement for victims of crime.

METHODS:

Supporting reimbursement for psychological counseling as well as medical costs and lost wages, and for funeral expenses of survivors of a victim.

REGIONAL RELATIONS POLICIES

❑ **POLICY 204-16:** *Participation in Great Lakes Regional Boards and Commissions*

The City of Detroit should actively participate in all Great Lakes regional agencies and task forces.

METHODS:

- Providing information and data to appropriate agencies and any ongoing Great Lakes research projects.
- Articulating the economic development policies of Detroit as they relate to waterway usage.
- Raising environmental concerns that affect all communities bordering the Great Lakes system.

❑ **POLICY 204-17:** *Detroit's significance in southeastern Michigan*

The City of Detroit, being the center city of the southeastern Michigan region and the largest city in the State of Michigan, should retain and increase those uses, services, and facilities that are of special regional/State significance.

METHODS:

- Maintaining and expanding the City's position as a center of business and professional activities in the region and the State.
- Maintaining and expanding the variety of cultural, entertainment, and institutional facilities that a large core city is obligated to support.
- Providing a diversified base of industries and services for a broad and stable economy.
- Making major improvements to the transportation system to insure that Detroit remains the region's distribution center, a State distribution center, and competitive in transportation with other cities in the nation and world.

- Supporting appropriate legislation to require regional, State, and Federal agencies to provide an increased share of the funds necessary to operate those Detroit recreational facilities that are utilized by people from throughout the region.
- Promoting a better balance between the population served and facility capacity both within and outside Detroit. This can be done by utilizing for development vacant lots already served by public facilities before any new public facilities are constructed.

□ **POLICY 204-18: *Representation on regional agencies***

The City of Detroit should participate in regional organizations. Appropriate governing bodies of all appropriate agencies should be based upon the principle of one person, one vote.

METHODS:

- Participating in all agencies and bodies that address regional and State-wide issues and that affect City interests.
- Supporting appropriate State legislation and/or administrative rule changes that encourage units of government over 50,000 population in the region to belong to an appropriate umbrella regional agency.
- Supporting Federal legislation and/or administrative rule changes that encourage membership on appropriate regional agencies in order for local units of government to receive grants from the Federal government.
- Supporting appropriate State and Federal legislation mandating that the voting structure of all regional agencies shall be based upon the one person, one vote doctrine.
- Continuing to initiate regular contacts and share information with counterparts throughout the region and in appropriate out-State communities, to foster a greater understanding of regional and State-wide issues and their effects upon each community in southeastern Michigan and the State as a whole.

❑ **POLICY 204-19: *Regional public parks and recreation***

Strongly advocate Detroit's interests in regional recreation planning and programming.

METHODS:

- Securing formal City representation on the regional body that controls the Huron-Clinton Metropolitan Authority.
- Seeking a formula that requires per-capita or per-contribution allocations of resources from the HCMA.
- Encouraging HCMA's providing public transportation to its parks in the summer.
- Negotiating with Wayne County a more equitable distribution of park budget.
- Supporting the requirement that any Michigan city using State or Federal funds for construction or operation of a recreation facility must make it available to all persons.
- Seeking County, regional, or State financial support to replace the Howell Nature Center.

❑ **POLICY 204-20: *Urban/rural balance***

National, State, and regional land use policies should be enacted to mandate a balance of development between central cities and the suburbs.

METHODS:

- Supporting those communities that wish to limit growth. (However, limiting growth should not be an excuse to prevent racial and/or economic integration.)
- Joining with older suburbs, environmentalists, and others in coalitions to prevent urban sprawl and allow communities to retain their existing populations.
- Supporting the enactment of new State legislation and administrative rule changes to control development outside the existing urbanized area by

limiting State grants, amending the present State subdivision plat act to discourage large lot rural residential development, prohibiting development on ecologically fragile lands, prohibiting large developments of regional significance that are detrimental to the existing urbanized area, and requiring full service guarantees by the developer before new development is allowed.

- Encouraging the Southeast Michigan Council of Governments and other regional planning organizations to revise their policies to limit growth where desirable, allow communities to retain their existing population, and keep growth in balance.
- Limiting growth should not be an excuse to prevent racial and/or economic integration.
- Supporting necessary State legislation and/or administrative rule changes to require communities to provide for balanced land use development consistent with adequate local or County land use plans which meet regional and/or State criteria.

❑ **POLICY 204-21: *Equalized development costs***

Develop a means by which it will become at least as advantageous for developers to build in, and home owners to purchase in, the City of Detroit as in the developing suburbs.

METHODS:

- Supporting changes in Federal policies, such as lower interest rates on Federal Housing Administration (FHA) mortgages for housing in central cities, tax incentives to develop in the central city, and other changes as necessary, to make it at least as attractive for developers to build in the central city as in the outer suburbs.
- Supporting changes in Federal policies as needed to make it as advantageous for all types of developments to be located in central cities as in other urban areas.

❑ **POLICY 204-22: *Regional growth***

Infrastructure or public facility extensions beyond the existing urbanized area should be allowed only if growth in population cannot be accommodated in the

existing urbanized area, or facilities are needed to solve major pollution problems or remedy health hazards.

METHODS:

- Supporting the development of a new Regional Sewer Service Area Plan to supersede existing plan. The new plan should be based upon the premise that the amount of land to be served by sewers should be correlated with the newly adopted regional population and household projections, or if the remedy to a major pollution problem of health hazard requires a sewer solution. Appropriate facility plans should also be amended accordingly.
- Supporting appropriate legislation to prohibit the Federal government and the State of Michigan from funding new infrastructure projects that serve population growth only. This is already done in the case of sewer service dollars.
- Supporting appropriate State legislation and/or necessary administrative rule changes to require that the cost of new sewer and water projects be borne only by those who will benefit directly. Bonds for these projects should be floated based only upon the faith, credit, revenue, etc., of the area that will be directly served.
- Supporting appropriate State legislation to require that all other solutions to a pollution problem shall have been exhausted before a new sewer is constructed.
- Supporting appropriate legislation to require that public utility companies charge a more equitable cost of service for transmission to new developments that are distant from generating, switching, and storage facilities.
- Supporting legislation requiring that future infrastructure extensions shall conform to a local plan based upon realistic population projections.

INTERNATIONAL TRADE POLICIES

❑ **POLICY 204-23: *Free Trade Agreement***

Capitalize on the economic and development opportunities for the Detroit and Windsor region, especially regarding the Free Trade Agreement, in order to

facilitate the channeling of increased foreign trade through our North American /Canadian border.

METHODS:

- Encouraging joint development opportunities with Windsor, working together to establish the region as a new international marketplace.
- Encouraging State of Michigan subsidy of the development of a World Trade Center in order to establish a physical presence that reflects the magnitude of trade and transport opportunities and facilities in the region.
- Marketing the region as a hub of international trade, since the Detroit/Windsor region is the largest international trade region in North America.
- Targeting the attraction of industries to Detroit that could particularly take advantage of the Free Trade Agreement.
- Encouraging the start of trade programs, to host foreign trade delegations (Minsk, Africa, etc.), and to analyze import and export opportunities, as a result of the Free Trade Agreement.
- Encouraging the location of foreign consulates and trade missions in Detroit.